

REMARKS

The application has been amended and is believed to be in condition for allowance.

Formal Matters

Claims 22 and 24 were objected to.

Claims 22 and 24 have been amended responsive to the noted objections.

Withdrawal of the objections is solicited.

Claim 13 has been amended to eliminate a double comma in the preamble.

Claim 26 was amended to change "a an" to "an."

There are no other formal matters outstanding.

Claims 13-15 and 17-26 are pending.

Claims 13, 23, and 25 are independent.

Substantive Matters

Claims 13, 14, 18, 19, and 22-26 are rejected as obvious over HINNERS 4,134,703 in view of HALL 2,064,304.

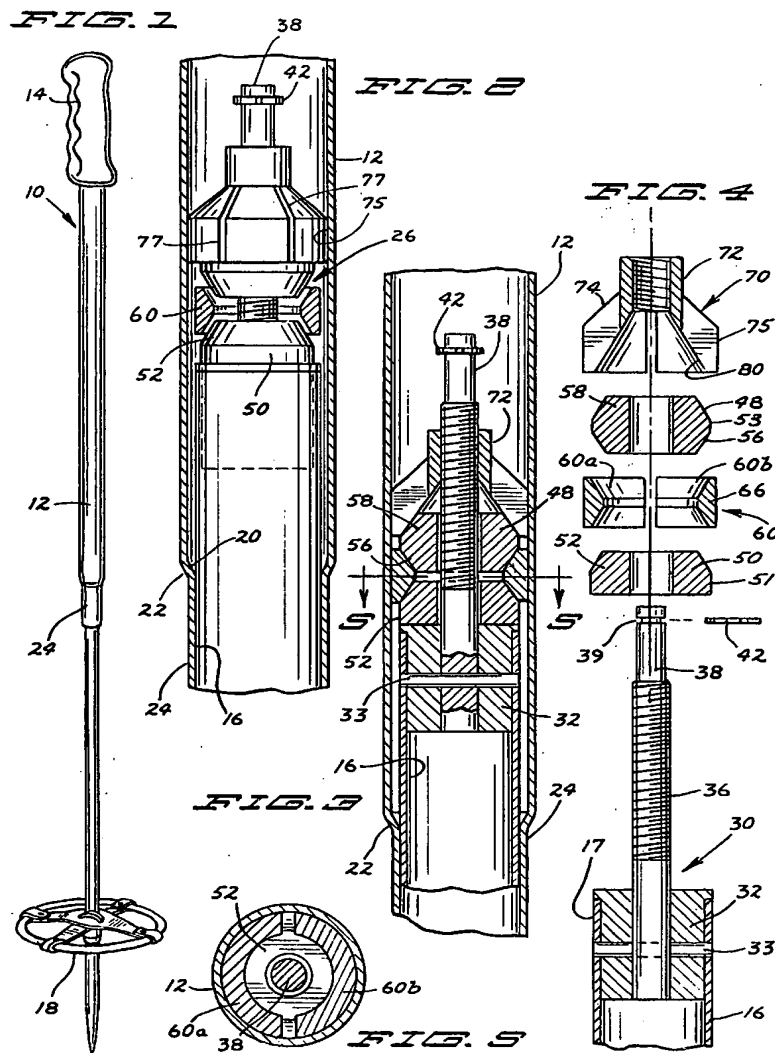
Claims 15, 17, 20, and 21 are rejected in further view of KRUGER 6,712,544.

Applicant disagrees.

Reconsideration and allowance of all the claims are solicited.

Claim 13 is reproduced below, annotated to show how the claim is being read onto HINNERS:

13. A clamping device (Figures 1-4) for telescoping tubes (12, 16).



- a threaded part (36) comprising a threaded rod (30) configured for attachment to an inner tube (16) of a set of telescoping tubes (12, 16), (See Figure 4).

- the threaded rod (11) comprising two threaded sections (13, 15). The Official Action acknowledges HINNERS fails to disclose this feature (O.A. page 3, lines 11-13).

- the two threaded sections having opposing threads. The Official Action acknowledges HINNERS fails to disclose this feature (O.A. page 3, lines 11-13).

- a radially expandable clamping part (60) which is a hollow cylinder and which has a continuous lengthwise slot), (See Figure 4).

- two conical expansion bodies (50, 70) located at respective ones of two opposite ends of the clamping part (60), (See Figures 2, 4).

- wherein, the two expansion bodies (50, 70) are adjustable relative to the clamping part (60),

See that the claim requires that "the expansion bodies are each threaded onto a different one of the threaded sections of the threaded rod". The Official Action offers HINNERS as disclosing that the expansion bodies (50, 70) are each threads on the threaded rod (36). See Official Action page 3, line 3.

However, element 50 is not threaded onto rod 30. See column 2, lines 22-23 "Slidably disposed upon said bolt 30 to move freely are a pair of wedge members 48 and 50."

See also threaded boss 72 acts to actuate wedge members 48 and 50.

Thus, there is no anticipation of the recitation that "the expansion bodies are each threaded onto a different one of the threaded sections of the threaded rod".

- in use, the expansion bodies (50, 70) engage an interior of an outer tube (12) of the set of telescoping tubes (12, 16), turning the inner tube (16) relative to the outer tube (12) causes the expansion bodies (50, 70) to move along the respective one of the different threaded sections to each approach the other to widen the clamping part (60) radially, over a length of the clamping part (60).

However, only element 70 engages the interior of outer tube 12. Element 50 has a diameter insufficient to engage the interior of the outer tube.

Additionally, in HINNERS, parts 50, 70 are on each side of ring portion 60. Rotating part 70 moves part 70 toward part 50, but part 50 does not move. Thus, even though elements 60a, 60b of element 60 may move apart from each other, the expansion body 50 does not move along the respective section of bolt 30.

In summary, HINNERS does not disclose:

- the expansion bodies are each threaded onto a different one of the threaded sections of the threaded rod;
- the threaded rod comprising two threaded sections;
- the two threaded sections having opposing threads;

- in use, the expansion bodies engage an interior of an outer tube of the set of telescoping tubes; and

- in turning the tubes relative to each other, both expansion bodies (50, 70) moving along the respective portions of the threaded section.

As HINNERS does not disclose that for which it was offered, the rejections should all be withdrawn.

HALL elements 12, 13 are offered as two conical expansion bodies. HALL is also offered as disclosing threaded hole 22, threaded rod 25 with two thread sections T, T' having opposing threads and different diameters. See Official Action page 3.

The Official Action states that it would have been obvious to use this structure of HALL to replace the structure of HINNERS.

HALL discloses a device for clamping bolts C having a cylindrical shank S within an annular base 1 of a cutter head. There are two annular recesses 6 and 8 in which a number of wedges 12 and 13 are disposed. These wedges 12 and 13 are actuated by turning bolts 25 with different pitch in order to press the shanks S of the bolts C against the bores 5 in the annular base 1 of the cutter head.

Note, however, that the wedges 12, 13 do not spread an expandable member but simply urge shanks S of bolts C against the outer section of an interior wall of the bores 5 in base 1.

Thus, the operation of HINNERS and HALL are completely different and there is no teaching bridging these two operations that would suggest the structure of the present invention.

This is also true for KRUGER because it is only one of the two frustro-conical members 14, 33, namely member 14, which is screwed to threaded bolt 22.

None of the applied references teach the concept of the invention or the operative features missing from HINNERS. Accordingly, it is believed that all the claims are clearly non-obvious.

The other independent claims are allowable for the same reasons as discussed above.

Thus, each of these claims is believed patentable.

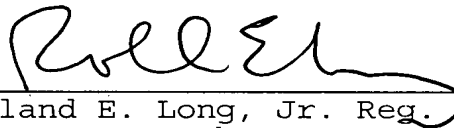
Withdrawal of the rejections and allowance of all the claims are requested.

Should there be any matters that need to be resolved in the present application; the Examiner is respectfully requested to contact the undersigned at the telephone number listed below.

The Commissioner is hereby authorized in this, concurrent, and future replies, to charge payment or credit any overpayment to Deposit Account No. 25-0120 for any additional fees required under 37 C.F.R. § 1.16 or under 37 C.F.R. § 1.17.

Respectfully submitted,

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